

Introduced by Senators Correa, Alquist, Cedillo, Cox, Denham, DeSaulnier, Ducheny, Florez, Harman, Huff, Maldonado, Padilla, Runner, Steinberg, Wiggins, and Yee

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Block, Blumenfield, De Leon, Furutani, Hall, Harkey, Huffman, Jeffries, Krekorian, Lieu, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Portantino, Price, Ruskin, Silva, Smyth, Torres, and Torrico)

March 23, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to senior volunteers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 28, as introduced, Correa. Senior Volunteer Month.

This measure would declare May 2009 to be “Senior Volunteer Month” to honor the contributions of California’s senior volunteers.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Each May, Americans observe Older Americans
- 2 Month and celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of
- 3 older Americans; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Many local governments have proclaimed May to
- 5 be Older Americans Month; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Senior volunteers serve congregate and
- 7 home-delivered meals, engage in assisted senior activities, work
- 8 for the prevention of elder abuse, and provide health care
- 9 counseling, legal assistance, and transportation; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Volunteer work is performed for Alzheimer’s
- 11 patients, grandchildren, community organizations, schools,
- 12 churches, hospitals, and many other nonprofit organizations; and
- 13 WHEREAS, A national survey in 1999 showed senior citizens’
- 14 volunteer work hours totaled approximately 5.5 billion hours a

1 year at an estimated value of \$71.2 billion. Forty-five percent of
2 seniors reported volunteering in neighborhoods, 54 percent of
3 senior volunteers were either full- or part-time employed, and 45
4 percent of retired seniors volunteered four or more hours weekly.
5 Eighty-one percent of those over 75 years of age volunteer when
6 asked; and

7 WHEREAS, Many local governments, nonprofit organizations,
8 and senior centers recognize senior volunteers once a year by
9 providing honorary certificates; and

10 WHEREAS, Many senior volunteers are in better health and
11 live longer due to advancements in medical science; and

12 WHEREAS, A major motivator for senior volunteers is their
13 desire to give back to society financially or socially; and

14 WHEREAS, The 2005 White House Conference on Aging
15 resolved to “develop a national strategy for promoting new and
16 meaningful volunteer activities and civil engagements for current
17 and future seniors” because volunteerism is very important to the
18 fabric of American society; and

19 WHEREAS, The 2005 White House Conference on Aging
20 resolved to “reauthorize the National And Community Service Act
21 to expand opportunities for volunteer and civic engagement
22 activities” because volunteerism greatly assists many nonprofit
23 organizations; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares May 2009 to be
26 “Senior Volunteer Month” to honor the contributions of
27 California’s senior volunteers; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
29 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.